

## Message Text

PAGE 01 STATE 179551 TOSEC 080112  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY S/P - SBERGER:EDH  
APPROVED BY THE ACTING SECRETARY  
D - SAOXMAN  
/SSGOLDSMITH  
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION  
D, S/S ONLY

-----049612 152253Z /21

O 152215Z JUL 78 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 179551 TOSEC 080112

EXDIS FOR THE SECRETARY FROM CHRISTOPHER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO SOVIET TRIALS

1. I ASKED INR FOR A PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF FOREIGN  
REACTIONS TO THE SOVIET TRIALS WHICH FOLLOWS IN  
PARAGRAPH 2. THE REACTION IS POURING IN, BUT EVEN ON  
THE BASIS OF FIRST RETURNS, IT SEEMS TO ME THAT YOU  
MIGHT WISH IN YOUR BACKGROUND SESSIONS WITH REPORTERS  
ON THE ISSUE, TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS ABOUT WORLD  
REACTION TO THE TRIALS:

-- THE REACTION TO SOVIET ACTIONS HAS BEEN ACROSS A BROAD  
POLITICAL SPECTRUM, SHOWING THAT OUR OWN CONCERN FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS IS SHARED IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES AND BY  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 179551 TOSEC 080112

PEOPLE OF VARYING POLITICAL VIEWPOINTS.

-- THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT OUR HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY  
HAS CONTRIBUTED TO FOCUSING WORLD ATTENTION ON VIOLATIONS  
OF BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS. NATIONS AROUND THE WORLD NOW  
KNOW THAT IF THEY SYSTEMATICALLY VIOLATE FUNDAMENTAL  
HUMAN RIGHTS, THEY DO SO UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT OF WORLD  
ATTENTION, AND AT THE RISK OF WORLD CONDEMNATION.

-- THE PARTICIPATION OF SO MANY OTHERS DEMONSTRATES

THAT CRITICISM OF SOVIET HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES  
CANNOT BE DISMISSED AS SIMPLY A U.S. CAMPAIGN, FOR  
POLITICAL PURPOSES, AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION.

-- SIMILARLY, IT BELIES THE CRITICISM THAT OUR HUMAN  
RIGHTS EFFORT IS AN ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE PECULIARLY  
AMERICAN VALUES ON OTHER COUNTRIES; THERE ARE BASIC  
HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH ARE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED, AND  
THE RIGHT OF POLITICAL EXPRESSION IS ONE OF THEM.

-- IT IS REASONABLE TO SUGGEST THAT AT AN EARLIER TIME,  
COMPARABLE SOVIET TRIALS MIGHT HAVE LARGELY ESCAPED  
THE WORLDWIDE ATTENTION AND CONDEMNATION FOCUSED ON  
THE SHCHARANSKIY AND GINSBERG TRIALS.

## 2. BEGIN INR ANALYSIS

### HIGHLIGHTS

-- MAJOR WEST EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS ALL STRONGLY SCORED  
THE TRIALS AND NOTED THE VIOLATIONS OF THE HELSINKI  
FINAL ACT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 179551 TOSEC 080112

-- THE BRITISH, FRENCH, AND ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTIES  
EXPRESSED THEIR GRAVE CONCERN. THE FRENCH PARTY  
DELIVERED A PROTEST NOTE TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY. MOST  
OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THE COMMUNIST PARTY REACTIONS  
REFLECT, TO A SUBSTANTIAL DEGREE, A DESIRE TO CLIMB ON  
THE BANDWAGON.

-- WE HAVE SEEN ONLY SCATTERED REACTIONS FROM OTHER  
PARTS OF THE WORLD, BUT ALL OF THOSE, WITH THE  
EXCEPTION OF THE JAPANESE REACTION, HAVE BEEN HIGHLY  
CRITICAL. THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT  
HIS GOVERNMENT DID NOT WISH TO INTERFERE IN THE INTER-  
NAL AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER COUNTRY.

COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY DETAILS FOLLOW:

EUROPE

GREAT BRITAIN

OFFICIAL: PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN TOLD PARLIAMENT ON  
JULY 10 THAT THE TRIALS HAD "SOME OF THE HALLMARKS OF  
A RETURN TO THE TRIALS WE KNEW IN STALINIST DAYS." HE  
CAUTIONED THAT THE SENTENCES WILL PUT SOVIET RELATIONS  
WITH OTHER COUNTRIES "TO A SEVERE TEST." FOREIGN

SECRETARY OWEN SAID THAT THE TRIALS ARE IN DIRECT CONTRAVENTION OF THE SPIRIT AND INTENTION OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. HE ADDED THAT THERE CAN BE NO IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN LONDON AND MOSCOW WITHOUT PROGRESS OVER HUMAN RIGHTS.

UNOFFICIAL: MORE THAN 120 MP'S HAVE SIGNED A CROSS-PARTY RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE "APPROPRIATE ACTION." THE MOTION EMPHASIZES THAT MOSCOW MUST UNDERSTAND THAT "WE CANNOT...CONTINUE DEALING WITH THEM..."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 STATE 179551 TOSEC 080112

IN BUSINESS, THE ARTS, OR ANY OTHER FIELD WHILE THEY PERSECUTE AND HARRASS THOSE WHO ARE ONLY SEEKING TO EXERCISE HUMAN RIGHTS..."

IN A POLICY STATEMENT ISSUED ON JULY 13, THE BRITISH COMMUNIST PARTY ANNOUNCED ITS GRAVE CONCERN OVER THE TRIALS. IT CALLED ON MOSCOW TO RESCIND THE SENTENCES AND RELEASE THOSE ON TRIAL.

FRANCE

OFFICIAL: THE QUAI ON JULY 10 ISSUED A STATEMENT EXPRESSING THE "SERIOUS CONCERN" OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT AND RECALLING THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITMENTS OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND THE JOINT FRANCO-SOVIET DECLARATION ON DETENTE SIGNED LAST YEAR BY BRRZHNEV AND GISCARD.

UNOFFICIAL: A JULY 11 LE MONDE EDITORIAL SAID THAT MOSCOW IS APPARENTLY ON THE OFFENSIVE "TO ELIMINATE DISSIDENCE BY INTIMIDATING, HUMILIATING, AND BREAKING ITS OPPONENTS." THE EDITORIAL ASSERTED THAT THE TRIALS SHOW MOSCOW "IS NO LONGER CONCERNED, AS IT WAS BEFORE THE HELSINKI AND BELGRADE CONFERENCES, TO GIVE ITSELF A PLEASANT IMAGE."

THE FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY DELIVERED A PROTEST NOTE TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY ASKING THAT GINZBURG AND SHCHARANSKIY BE FREED. THE PARTY'S DAILY NEWSPAPER, HUMANITE, CLAIMED THAT IT WAS GINZBURG'S RIGHT, AS A CITIZEN, "TO SHOW DISAGREEMENT WITH THE POLICY OF HIS GOVERNMENT" AND ADDED THAT COURTS "SHOULD HOLD THEIR SESSIONS IN THE FULL LIGHT OF DAY."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 05 STATE 179551 TOSEC 080112

WEST GERMANY

OFFICIAL: GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN BOELLING ON JULY 10  
REITERATED BONN'S CONCERN THAT MOSCOW CONTINUES TO  
VIOLATE THE BASIC TENETS OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER WAS DESCRIBED BY A FREE  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY SPOKESMAN, JULY 13, AS BEING "DEEPLY  
SHOCKED" AT GINZBURG'S SENTENCE. GENSCHER ALSO SAID:  
"WE DO NOT EXPECT THE SENTENCE AGAINST HIM TO BE THE  
FINAL WORD."

SCHMIDT, AT A JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE WITH PRESIDENT  
CARTER, JULY 14, EXPRESSED "FULL AGREEMENT" WITH THE  
PRESIDENT'S REMARKS DEPLORING THE PROSECUTION OF  
SHCHARANSKIY AND OTHERS.

#### ITALY

OFFICIAL: PRESIDENT PERTINI SENT A MESSAGE TO BREZHNEV  
ON JULY 11 URGING THAT THE TRIALS NOT VIOLATE THE  
"HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL LIBERTIES SANCTIONED BY  
THE PRINCIPLES OF THE FINAL HELSINKI ACT."

UNOFFICIAL: A FRONT-PAGE COMMENTARY IN THE ITALIAN  
COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY, L'UNITA, ON JULY 11, NOTED THAT  
THE TRIALS RAISE "DEEP UNEASINESS AND REPROBATION" AND  
"CALL INTO QUESTION A COMMITMENT TO CERTAIN PRINCIPLES  
TO WHICH THE USSR COMMITTED ITSELF AT HELSINKI."

#### DENMARK

OFFICIAL: A DANISH PROTEST TO MOSCOW ON JULY 11 VOICED  
"DEEP CONCERN" ABOUT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE PROCEEDINGS  
FOR THE "CONTINUATION OF EFFORTS TO STRENGTHEN FURTHER  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 06 STATE 179551 TOSEC 080112

SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE AND...THE INTERNA-  
TIONAL CLIMATE IN GENERAL." THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER  
SAID THAT DENMARK WAS IN CONTACT WITH SWEDEN AND NORWAY  
AND "IN OUR FORMULATION WE ARE IN FULL AGREEMENT."

PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN STATED ON JULY 13 THAT IT IS  
A "SERIOUS THING" WHEN DANES REACT TO JUDICIAL PRO-  
CEEDINGS IN ANOTHER COUNTRY, BUT WHEN THE PROCEEDINGS  
VIOLATE THE HELSINKI ACCORD, "IT IS NECESSARY" FOR  
DENMARK TO REACT. JORGENSEN EMPHASIZED THAT THE PROTEST  
WAS PREPARED AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH THE EC COUNTRIES  
AND THE POINTS MADE ARE IN AGREEMENT WITH SEVERAL STATE-  
MENTS MADE IN THOSE COUNTRIES.

UNOFFICIAL: THE DANISH PRESS HAS GENERALLY CHARACTERIZED  
THE TRIALS AS A SERIOUS, POSSIBLY DELIBERATE, THREAT TO

DETENTE AIMED PRIMARILY AT THE U.S. BUT ALSO HAVING  
IMPLICATIONS FOR ALL THE SIGNERS OF THE HELSINKI ACCORD.

IRELAND

OFFICIAL: FOREIGN MINISTER O'KENNEDY STATED ON JULY 12  
THAT "THERE IS EVERY DANGER THAT THE SUPPORT BY WORLD  
PUBLIC OPINION WHICH IS SO NECESSARY FOR DETENTE COULD  
BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS THE PRESENT  
TRIALS."

SOUTH ASIA

INDIA

UNOFFICIAL: AN EDITORIAL IN THE JULY 12 AMRITA BAZAR  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 07 STATE 179551 TOSEC 080112

PATRIKA SAID THAT "THE FEELING AROUND THE WORLD TODAY IS  
THAT NEITHER THE SOVIET METHODS OF TRIAL NOR SOVIET  
VERSIONS OF THE OFFENSES ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE DISSIDENTS  
ARE ENTIRELY CONVINCING AND PROPER."

OTHER NEWSPAPERS GAVE THE TRIALS WIDESPREAD NEWS  
COVERAGE. MANY FOCUSED ON THE US-SOVIET "CONFRONTATION."

MIDDLE EAST

ISRAEL

OFFICIAL: PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, IN AN ADDRESS TO THE  
KNESSET, DENOUNCED THE TRIALS AS INVALID BECAUSE OF THE  
SOVIETS' GROSS VIOLATION OF CIVILIZED LEGAL PROCEDURES.  
HE CALLED FOR ALL NATIONS TO INTERVENE IN ORDER TO  
SECURE THE RELEASE OF THE UNJUSTLY ACCUSED DISSIDENTS.

EAST ASIA

JAPAN

OFFICIAL: A GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN REFUSED, JULY 14, TO  
COMMENT ON THE TRIALS BECAUSE "WE DO NOT WISH TO  
INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF A FOREIGN COUNTRY."

AUSTRALIA

OFFICIAL: FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK STATED AT A PRESS

CONFERENCE ON JULY 11 THAT THE TRIALS CAST SERIOUS DOUBTS  
"ON RUSSIA'S PROFESSED INTENTION TO HONOR ITS INTERNA-  
TIONAL OBLIGATIONS TO IMPROVE HUMAN RIGHTS."

LATIN AMERICA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 08 STATE 179551 TOSEC 080112

ARGENTINA

UNOFFICIAL: AN EDITORIAL IN THE JULY 12 BUENOS AIRES  
HERALD, ARGENTINA'S MOST OUTSPOKEN NEWSPAPER ON HUMAN  
RIGHTS, CLAIMED THAT THE KREMLIN, BY HOLDING THE TRIALS  
IN THE SAME WEEK AS THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH  
BROMYKO, "SEEMS TO BE CHALLENGING PRESIDENT CARTER TO  
A SHOWDOWN ON A MORAL ISSUE." THE EDITORIAL ADDED THAT  
THE ASSURANCES MOSCOW GAVE AT HELSINKI ON HUMAN RIGHTS  
HAVE BEEN "CYNICALLY FLOUTED."

THIS IS A PRELIMINARY REPORT BASED ON AVAILABLE INFOR-  
MATION. WE WILL UPDATE IT AS WE RECEIVE MORE. IN ORDER  
TO MAKE SURE THAT WE HAVE ALL OFFICIAL REACTIONS, WE  
HAVE ASKED OUR POSTS TO CABLE ALL PERTINENT OFFICIAL  
COMMENTS.

ICA IS COMPILING PRESS REACTIONS.

END INR ANALYSIS. CHRISTOPHER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 26 sep 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BRIEFING MATERIALS, PRESS CONFERENCES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, POLITICAL TRIALS, COURT DECISIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE179551  
**Document Source:** ADS  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** S/P - SBERGER:EDH  
**Enclosure:** DG ALTERED  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780291-0690  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t197807106/baaaefx.tel  
**Line Count:** 305  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 3070566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN SS  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 6  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1857204  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REACTIONS TO SOVIET TRIALS  
**TAGS:** OVIP, SOPN, SHUM, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R)  
**To:** SECRETARY  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/3070566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014